

## The sipunculan fauna (Sipuncula) of Western Australia

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### Abstract

Twenty-three species of sipunculans are here recorded from Western Australia. The record of *Sipunculus norvegicus* is new for Australia and the records of *Golfingia herdmani*, *Aspidosiphon elegans*, *Aspidosiphon cumingi*, *Aspidosiphon jukesi* and *Themiste cymodoceae* are new for Western Australia.

### Introduction

The present study is based on about 350 sipunculans in the Western Australian Museum, collected from the coast of Western Australia between Cheyne Bay in the south and Admiralty Bay in the north and from a number of off-shore islands and reefs. All of the coast sampled, therefore, borders the Indian Ocean. Although it contains no new species, the collection, being a large one, provides information about the variability of some species, enables some corrections to be made to a number of earlier identifications and extends the known range of some species, previously thought to be confined to other shores of the continent.

The earliest reports of sipunculans from Western Australia are those of Fischer 1919, 1921 and 1927. Fischer 1919 and 1927 are almost the same report but published in different journals. Fischer's records are listed in Table 1.

Many of the specimens were found intertidally by collectors and some subtidally by divers. A few were washed up after heavy storms. Depths have been given for dredged specimens.

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